

Frederici Hoffmanni Fred. *Fil. M. D. Exercitatio  
Medico Chymica de Cinnabari Antimonii.*

Lugd. Batavorum 1685 8<sup>vo</sup>

THE Author of this Treatise designing to give an exact process of the *Cinnabar* of *Antimony*, and examine its Constituent principles; to Solve all Phænomena that occur in its preparation; to explain the Mode of its operation, and describe its Virtues: begins first with its two Ingredients *Antimony*, and *Sublimate*; and considers their principles in distinct Chapters; makes Experiment in what proportion *Salts*, and *Mercury* are Containd in *Sublimate*; gives you caution how to choose the *Sublimate*; and gives account what happened remarkable from distilling *Cinnabar* of *Antimony* with *Sublimate* adulterated with *Arsenick*.

Treating next of the Butter of *Antimony*, he examines its two Principles, the one *Saline* and fluid, the other *Firm* & dry, which he calls *Mercurius Vita*; & here again he makes tryall in what proportion each Ingredient is included in this Composition; he insists much upon the Management of the fire, and Vessels in this preparation; and shews a way how to prepare *Butter* of *Antimony* without fire.

And here he takes notice of that odd Phænomenon, why *Butter* of *Antimony* makes such an effervescence with *Spirit* of *Niter* only, and with no other Corrosive *Menstruum* besides; which he *Solves* by supposing that the *Spirit* of *Niter*, by its mixing with the *Salts* in the *Sublimate*, becomes an *Aqua Regis*, which works upon the Included *Antimonial* particles, just as that Corrosive *Menstruum* is observ'd to work upon the powder of *Antimony*.

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Coming next to speak of *Cinnabar* of *Antimony*, he demonstrates these 3 Principles to exist in it, *viz.* *Mercury*, the *Sulphur* of *Antimony*, and an *Acid Spirit* impregnated with a *Vitriolick Sulphur*; that *Mercury* does chiefly constitute this Composition, he proves in that it comes very near in weight to common *Precipitate*. He likewise makes Experiments of the proportionable encrease of each Ingredient of *Cinnabar* by fire; particularly of the encrease of *Mercury*, which he proves both from the Observation of others and his own, in converting *Tinn*, *Lead* almost all into *Mercury*.

*Mercury* revived from *Cinnabar* of *Antimony* he prefers much before the common, either to *Amalgamate Metals*, or in Medicine: the cause of which he imputes, to the *Mercury's* being depurate from its *Metallick* terrene and heterogeneous particles by the *Sulphur* of *Antimony*. To Revive *Mercury* from *Cinnabar*, he finds filings of *Steel*, or *Copper* to be more effectual then *Lixivial Salts*; to prove which, he mentions an Experiment (which he designs to make a nice tryal of again) where mixing 6 Ounces of *Mercury* with 10 ounces of *Salt* of *Tartar*, he obtained no more then 4 Ounces of *Mercury*.

Coming next to speak of the Preparation of *Cinnabar* of *Antimony*, according to others, and his own ways, he places much in subliming it often, and Cautions you as in powdering this, so to grind all other pouders exceeding fine; since grosser pouders serve onely to absorb aciditys in the *Primæ Viæ*, and cannot enter the *Lacteals*, thence to be received by the mass of blood. He considers next how the Virtues of this *Cinnabar* may be exalted, whither by Solution, Fixation, or drawing a Tincture from it. Solution by Corrosive Menstruums, such as *Aqua Fortis*, *Aqua Regis*, *Spirit* of *Niter*, &c he condemns, as making it dangerous to be taken inwardly. Other Insipid *Æthereal* universal Solvents,

such as vain Chymists pretend to, he confesses himself ignorant of. Only this he has observed in his practise, that by pouring upon *Cinnabar*, sweet Spirit of *Vitriol*, though the Solution was only superficial; yet this Liqueur did far exceed *Cinnabar* in Virtues.

Amongst the different ways of fixing *Cinnabar* by common Salt, Oyl of *Vitriol* or *Sulphur*, he gives a Method so to prepare *Cinnabar* with Spirit of Niter and Oil of *Vitriol*, that its *Mercury* will not tinge Gold white, and the *Cinnabar* thus prepar'd, thrown upon burning Coals, will all fly away. He supposes *Cnasselius* preparation was such wherewith he cured the Gout; and the Author himself tells us that he has with this *Cinnabar*, extract of the *Cortex*, *Lesser Centory*, *Gentian*, and Salt of *Wormwood*, made up in *Bolus*, Cured some *Quartans* to admiration; yet he confesses 'tis not so fixt, but that its *Mercury* may easily be revived again. To draw a Tincture from *Cinnabar* he thinks not feasible, since he can find no Menstruum to dissolve it, but shews divers ways of drawing a Tincture from the *Sulphur* of *Antimony* included in the *Cinnabar*.

Lastly he observes that *Cinnabar* is the best corrector of *Opium*, and describes a Preparation of his, where *Opium* is so corrected, which he prefers before the richest *Laudanum*.

In explaining the manner of the operation of *Cinnabar*, he follows *Helmonts Philosophy*; and asserts, that it does not work only by absorbing *Acid* humors as some would have it; (since by the affusion of an *Acid* on *Cinnabar*, no alteration is produced) but by opening all obstructions, resolving Tartareous humors, promoting their excretion; invigorating the *Spirits* and the naturall ferments of the body; and destroying those that are noxious.

It may seem needless to mention all the diseases, against which he asserts *Cinnabar* to be effectual; since he explains its Operations to be much like those of a *Panacea*.